

senior center designed to meet the needs of gay and lesbian frail seniors and their caregivers.

Elizabeth "Betty" Mate of Fort Lauderdale has been associated with the Alzheimer's Family Center since 1997 and has served on the agency's Board of Directors. In 2007, she became Chairman of the Alzheimer's Family Center's Black Tie Gala Committee, and she recently completed a training program to volunteer for Project Lifesaver.

Evelyn Miller of Tamarac is Broward President of the National Alliance for Mental Illness. She also serves on the Board of the Florida Alliance for Mental Illness, and through her legislative advocacy and facilitation of model programs, has established the local Mental Health Court, the Court Project, the Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams, the Crisis Intervention team Model within local law enforcement, and the Peer-to-Peer and Family-to-Family Programs.

Pearl Monchek of Hollywood is a lifetime member of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. She also discovered the Southeast Focal Point Senior Center more than 10 years ago and often fills in for the Site Manager for Broward Meals on Wheels. During the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma, Pearl came to the aid of residents of the apartment complex adjacent to the Senior Center, purchasing and delivering food and supplies to needy individuals.

Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy of Oakland Park has served on the City of Oakland Park's Beautification Advisory Board, Charter Review Board, and Oakland Park Main Street Inc., in the offices of Vice President and Executive Board Secretary, and has contributed time as President of the Harris Chapel United Methodist Women's Group. Allegra actively participates with the Lakeside Homeowners Association, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the Oakland Park Kiwanis Club, and she holds the distinction of being the first African American Mayor of the City of Oakland Park.

Sister Germana Sala of Davie spent 15 years teaching mentally disabled children in North Miami and since then, has spent a majority of her time at Hope Outreach, providing Social Services to the low-income, poor, and multicultural residents in and around the Davie area. Germana also visits the homebound, disabled, and frail elderly at home, nursing facilities, and hospitals.

Charles Singer of Pompano Beach helped pursue the creation of Broward Homebound Program, Inc., an affordable in-home program to prevent the need for premature institutionalization. Charles has also served as President of the Central Bureau for Jewish Aged Association, Founder of the National Association of Jewish Homes for the Aged, Treasurer of the Men's Golf Association of Palm Aire and the B'nai B'rith Housing in Deerfield, and Vice President of the Auxiliary of the Memory Disorder Center.

Eleanor Sobel of Hollywood was elected to the Broward School Board in 2006 and is a former Florida State Representative. Eleanor served as Chair for Women in Power in the 1980s and as President of the Hollywood Chapter for the National Council for Jewish Women, and was the City Commissioner in Hollywood for 6 years in the 1990s. As a State Representative, Eleanor brought the concerns

of citizens in Hollywood and Pembroke Pines before the state legislature and was influential in enacting reforms on many issues of importance.

Willie Mae Williams of Lauderdale Lakes served as the Northwest Federated Woman's Club of Broward County for more than 25 years. As Second Vice President, Willie Mae diligently chairs the Food and Social Committee, and has raised funds for the organization by coordinating and implementing a weekly fish fry.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2007

Daniel Lerma, Robert F. Kennedy Charter High School; Jennifer Roberts, Mountainair High School; Jennifer Johnston, Del Norte High School; James H. Caughren, Sandia Preparatory School; Arthur Chacon, Manzano High School; Siobhan Degnan, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Abigail Martinez, South Valley Academy; Molly Nelson, Albuquerque Academy; Ashley Marie Maturino, Evangel Christian Academy; Ruby Trujillo, Rio Grande High School; Nicholas A. Maestas, Highland High School; David Aaron Parks, Cibola High School; Kelsey Byrne, Moriarty High School; Mathew Garcia, West Mesa High School; Eric Layer, Sandia High School; and Austin Baker, Temple Baptist Academy.

Angelica Aguilar, Los Puentes Charter School; Amanda Fernandez May, St. Pius X High School; Ashley Hope Darnell, Bernalillo High School; Sara Beth Dunham, Victory Christian School; Geri Lucia Lia, Menaul School; Corina Franco, New Futures School; Kelly Walker, Bosque School; Kelly D. Clingenpeel, Sierra Alternative High School; Audrey Wofford, Hope Christian School; Desiree J. Sandoval, Cesar Chavez Community School; Katie Gilliam, La Cueva High School; James C. Bohnhoff, El Dorado High School; Elizabeth McConaghy, Los Lunas High School; Charles Andres Padilla, East Mountain High School; Stacy Daniels, Valley High School; and Lindsay Riblett, Moriarty High School.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TOM DAVIS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John H. La Raia for over 37 years of dedicated military and Federal service.

Following his graduation from the University of Rochester in 1968, John joined the Air Force's Strategic Air Command in Southeast Asia. During his 5 years at this post, John served courageously and valiantly, flying in 155 missions. After completing his active duty, John continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves for an additional 21 years as a logistics plans officer.

Compelled to further serve his government and his Nation, John then began a career in the federal service at the Bureau of Naval Personnel. After his initial training period, he quickly rose through the ranks of the Bureau, serving in a variety of assignments dealing with financial management, systems analysis and both civilian and military personnel.

In 1999, he joined the Senior Executive Service as an assistant for administration to the Under Secretary of the Navy. Through this role John managed duties concerning the Navy's budget, human resources, manpower, facilities and services, IT services and various other functions for the secretary.

During his distinguished career he was awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal three times. Additionally, he received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. Finally, last year he was recognized by President Bush and awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Service.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. John H. La Raia for his distinguished career and his service to our Nation. He exemplifies everything our great Nation could hope for in a public servant. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. La Raia and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JEREMY R. GREENE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I wish to commend Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Corporal Greene was assigned to A Company 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. In an unfortunate accident, Corporal Greene lost his life on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Forward Operating Base Tillman in Afghanistan. His sacrifice for his country will forever be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Jeremy graduated in 2001 from Shawnee High School in

Springfield, Ohio. Jeremy is remembered as being the adventurous type, always enjoying activities like rock climbing and rappelling. Based on his desire to participate in exciting activities, even as a child, it came as no surprise that he would eventually choose to join the military. In 2004, Jeremy enlisted in the United States Army and began his next adventure.

Corporal Greene felt tremendous pride for his country, and it will never be forgotten that he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Corporal Greene enlisted in the United States Army being fully aware that danger could arise in any situation. He accepted this so the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by men, women, and children around the world.

For his efforts, Corporal Greene was awarded several military medals and honors, including: the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, to name a few. In addition, to further exemplify his dedication and patriotism, Corporal Greene was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Jeremy treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his father, Richard Greene, of Springfield, Ohio, his mother, Cindy Greene (Mike White), of Oxford, Indiana, and two brothers, Mickey and Christopher Webster, as well as his loving nieces, Zoe, Sierra, and Jordan, whom Jeremy adored. Jeremy also leaves to cherish his memory many other friends and family members whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

THE RESERVISTS AND GUARDSMEN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reservists and Guardsmen Tax Relief Act of 2007. As Reservists and Guardsmen are activated, this can cause financial strains on many of them, and my legislation is meant to help provide some financial relief during the time in which they are called to active duty.

My bill would extend the penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts for Reservists and Guardsmen who are called to active duty for more than 179 days. This benefit is set to expire on December 31, 2007. My bill extends this benefit through December 31, 2008.

Under this tax benefit, Guardsmen and Reservists called to active duty can receive pay-

ments from their individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans and 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities, without having to pay the 10 percent early-distribution surtax. Some Reservists and Guardsmen have already taken advantage of this benefit. While premature withdrawals from retirement accounts should be very carefully considered by anyone who has a retirement account, this proposal may assist in dealing with economic difficulties that may occur when a self-employed reservist, or any Reservist or Guardsman, is called to active duty service. This would be one way to allow them increased access to their money at a time when they are defending our liberties.

Some Reservists and Guardsmen, including small business owners and employees of small businesses, experience loss of income when they are called to active duty. The drop in income is real for many Reservists and Guardsmen. Removal of the early withdrawal penalty would be one way to help alleviate some of the income loss that a Reservist or Guardsman's family might suffer as a result of activation.

Our Reservists and Guardsmen should have access to their own money in order to help them make ends meet while activated. This is a small step to help out those who are serving in defense of our Nation. As a former active duty and reserve Army officer, I am committed to doing what I can to make active duty service easier for all of our servicemembers, both active and reserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BUX-MONT KATRINA RELIEF PROJECT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and personal gratitude that I recognize the remarkable work of the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project (BMKP), whose organizers took bold initiative to provide much needed disaster relief services to Hancock County, Mississippi in the aftermath of Katrina Hurricane.

In partnership with the Salvation Army, the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project developed a community-to-community disaster response model. By creating a partnership between Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania and Hancock County in Mississippi, a \$1.25 million child care center was created. Furthermore, homes were rebuilt, schools were repaired and community projects were aided. In addition, the University of Pennsylvania School of Society Policy and Practice is partnering with the BMKP to help fix the Hancock County human services system. Funding for these projects came solely from private and corporate donations and in-kind services.

Through outstanding effort and vision, this project brought hope to the Gulf Coast community by establishing a proactive disaster relief program. Madam Speaker, the experience gained by BMKP and its partner organizations has inspired them to present their program as a national disaster relief model designed to bring together the military, governmental agencies, regional groups and national organizations.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the victims of Hurricane Katrina have been slow to re-

ceive the necessary and promised support from our government. The Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project has successfully provided private support to one community. Their disaster relief model, if promoted nationally, will expand on that success and greatly improve our Nation's ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of the COPS Improvement Act.

Created by President Clinton, COPS grants have successfully put 117,000 police officers in our neighborhoods. The formula is simple—more cops means safer streets and more secure neighborhoods.

As a result of this tough-on-crime policy, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates throughout the 1990s. Unfortunately, last year the Republican-led Congress completely eliminated funding for this highly successful initiative.

It is no coincidence that when federal funds for COPS grants dried up, violent crime rates escalated. For example, last year the City of Philadelphia experienced a nine-year high in homicides, claiming 406 lives. This shamefully high number of homicides included my constituent, Police Officer Gary Skerski, who was shot while responding to a robbery.

Last week was the one-year anniversary of Officer Skerski's death, and we must not forget the sacrifices that he and the other officers have made to protect their communities.

That is why I am pleased that the Democratic Majority is taking steps to restore funding for COPS grants. As a result of this bill, we will put 50,000 new officers on our nation's streets, provide local law enforcement with additional tools and resources to combat crime, and better ensure that criminals are put behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Sheriffs' Association. These men and women serve our constituents every day, and they rely on us to support them with necessary equipment and resources for essential personnel.

I thank my colleagues for protecting our citizens by voting "yes" on this important bill.

C.O.P.S IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 1700, The C.O.P.S Improvement Act. This legislation helps to put 50,000 more police officers on America's streets. This bill will add hundreds of new